

February 10, 2004

the identifier "(Original)" which is believed to be correct and confirmed by the LIE via telephone call on this date.

Please note that there was an error in the original submission of this case. The correct file number of this case is **HCDI1786**. The Office and the Examiner are requested to take note of this change and to change their records accordingly. In the future, in both writing and orally, please use this identification when conferring with the attorney of record. Your cooperation and courtesy is appreciated.

The entire response is re-submitted without the check for one month's late fee which has already been received by the Office. Also, please note that the Notice herein states that the document was filed on January 20, 2004. This is incorrect. The actual date can be observed by the proof of service in the mailing certificate as January 15, 2004. Please note that the date received by the US/PTO is NOT the date of filing.

**IN THE DRAWING:**

Figs. 3 and 8 have been marked in red with the proposed changes and are enclosed herewith.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend p. 8, ll. 15 – 19 as follows:

**(Currently amended)** "The invention will now be described with respect to the drawing and particularly to Fig. 1, which illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the invention shown generally by the numeral 10, a pipette assembly having apparatus for automated aspiration. The pipette assembly 10 is shown in Figs. 1 and 2 in use with an overlapping diagnostic instrument shown generally by the numeral 50."

Please amend p. 11, ll. 20 – 22 as follows: